

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 2 is amended. Claims 1, 4-8 and 12 are canceled. Claims 2, 3, 9-11 and 13-14 are pending.

In a Final Office Action dated December 27, 2005 in a parent case, the Examiner rejected claim 2 (before the current Amendment) under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,556,140 to East (“East”). The Examiner also rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over East in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,109,528 to Kunert et al. (“Kunert”). Claims 9, 10 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over East in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0113790 to Hamel (“Hamel”). Further, claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over East in view of “RFID Handbook-Radio Frequency Identification Fundamentals and Application” (“RFID Handbook”). Claim 11 was rejected as being unpatentable over East in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,864,323 to Berthon (“Berthon”).

Independent claim 2 is amended to recite that the claimed reader comprises a metallic enclosure including a metallic sleeve, the sleeve being closed on a side proximate to the antenna of the reader so that a control circuit of the reader can communicate only through a metallic wall of the enclosure. Such a structure was not known or available in the prior art. The main reference to East cited in the Final Office Action clearly shows a housing with a non-metallic space 38 defined in the walls of the housing through which electromagnetic flux lines may pass. See, East Column 3, lines 24-32, reciting in part “space 38 is an open space providing for an air gap, or a closed space, typically filled with a synthetic plastics insert, or an insert of another non-metallic material that will not cause ‘shorting of flux lines’.”

The teachings of the East reference corresponds to some of the other prior art disclosed in the background of this application. That is, East shows an opening or a non-metallic section in a metallic housing allowing for magnetic flux lines to permeate therethrough. East, like the prior art discussed in the background of this application, does not show a metallic enclosure including a metallic front plate - as claimed. The other cited references to Kunert, Hamel, RFID Handbook and Berthon are not cited to show, and do not appear to show, the above referenced limitations. As such, is asserted that independent claim 2 is patentable over even a combination of the cited prior art. Dependent claims 3, 9-11 and 13-14 include the above referenced limitations of independent claim 2, and include additional recitations which, when combined with the limitations of independent claim 2, are also neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record.

It is asserted that these claims are allowable as well.

**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**

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